

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SAM-01 OMB-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 L-02 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /061 W

----- 105667

R 211518Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3238

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 1451

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SY, IZ

SUBJECT: SYRIAN-IRAQI MILITARY MOVEMENTS

REF: DAMASCUS 1355

1. BRITISH EMBOFF TOLD US THAT UK MILATT IN BAGHDAD AS REPORTED IRAQI ARMORED MOVEMENTS TOWARD SYRIA IN AT LEAST TWO PLACES: ALONG DESERT ROAD CONNECTING BAGHDAD WITH DAMASCUS AND IN NORTH AT BALAD SINJAR. MOVEMENTS APPEAR TO BE IN RESPONSE TO SYRIAN CUTOFF OF EUPHRATES RIVER WATERS. UK EMBOFF SPECULATED THAT IF IRAQIS ACTUALLY INITIATE HOSTILITIES AGAINST SYRIA THEY MAY ATTEMPT OCCUPY NORTHEASTERN TIP OF SYRIA WHERE SYRIAN OIL AND GAS FIELDS LOCATED. FROM BALAD SINJAR IRAQI FORCE COULD MOVE BOTH TO OCCUPY NE REGION AND MOVE SW TO CUT DEIR AL-ZOR/HASSAKE ROAD ABOVE KM 47.

2. COMMENT: WE CURRENT HAVE NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF ABOVE. WILL TRY DEVELOP INFO ASAP, INCLUDING REACTION SYRIAN FORCES.

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MURPHY

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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